Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 ISO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:PKBULLEN:JFC
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NEA - MR. ATHERTON
EUR/RPM - JHAWES (DRAFT)
ACDA: SWENSON (DRAFT)
S/S:FVORTIZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

S E C R E T STATE 020511

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PINS, PINT, PFOR, US, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANESE ARMS CONTROL

REF: LONDON 1115

1. BELIEVE IT IS PRESENTLY UNPROPITIOUS TIME FOR EC-9
PUBLIC DECLARATION ABOUT ARMS TO LEBANON. PAST WEEK HAS
SEEN ENTRY OF PALESTINIAN TROOPS FROM SYRIA INTO
LEBANON, A HEAVY SHIFT IN THE MILITARY BALANCE AGAINST
THE CHRISTIANS, AND CEASEFIRE AND POLITICAL NEGOTIATION
EFFORTS WHICH SHOW REASONABLE CHANCE OF BEARING FRUIT. PUBSECRET

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LIC DECLARATION IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES COULD BE INTERPRETED

- --BY CHRISTIANS AND THEIR ADVERSARIES ALIKE--AS ONE-SIDED AND AIMED AT ADDING PRESSURES TO THE CHRISTIANS DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT.
- 2. WE VERY MUCH APPRECIATE RECEIVING REPORT OF LUXEMBOURG DISCUSSION, AND NONETHELESS BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR DISCUSSION OF ARMS CONTROL TO CONTINUE. POSSIBILITY OF SOME WESTERN RESTRICTION ON ARMS MOVEMENT COULD AT SOME POINT BE BALANCING FACTOR IN FACILITATING RETURN TO NORMALCY IN LEBANON WHEN TIME COMES FOR SYRIAN INVOLVEMENT THERE TO DECREASE.
- 3. FOLLOWING RESPONDS TO SPECIFIC QUESTIONS IN REFTEL PARA 3:
- A. WE HAVE ALSO BEEN CONCERNED THAT WESTERN ARMS CONTROL BY ITSELF COULD HAVE ONE-SIDED EFFECT. HENCE WE HAVE ENVISAGED THE POSSIBILITY OF WESTERN ARMS CONTROL AS SOMETHING WHICH COULD BE USED IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH SYRIANS TO PROMOTE SOME OVER-ALL REDUCTION IN ARMS FLOWS INTO LEBANON.
- B. IF AN ARMS CONTROL EFFORT IS MADE, WE WOULD ENVISAGE CONTROLS IN PRODUCING AND TRANSIT COUNTRIES, NOT RPT NOT USE OF SIXTH FLEET.
- C. WE RECOGNIZE THAT SOME COUNTRIES WILL HAVE DIFFICULTY EFFECTIVELY CONTROLLING ALL ARMS DEALS. BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR THEM TO CONSIDER WAYS THROUGH WHICH ARMS CONTROL PROCEDURES COULD BE TIGHTENED SO THAT IF AN ARMS CONTROL EFFORT IS MADE AT A LATER DATE, TIME LAG BETWEEN A DECLARATION AND ITS EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION WOULD BE REDUCED.
- 4. EMBASSY LONDON IS REQUESTED TO DRAW ON ABOVE IN DISCUSSION WITH APPROPRIATE LEVEL UK FONOFF PRIOR TO WED JANUARY 28 EC MIDDLE EAST EXPERTS DISCUSSION. OTHER ADDRESSEES MAY DRAW ON POINTS AS APPROPRIATE IF ASKED. KISSINGER

NOTE BY OC/T: EXDIS CAPTION ADDED PER MR. MACFARLANE S/S-O. SECRET SECRET

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Message Attributes

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Subject: LEBANESE ARMS CONTROL TAGS: PINS, PINT, PFOR, US, LE

To: LONDON

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